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By the Queene.



Where in the Parliament holden at Westmynster, the seconde day of Apryl, in the .xiii. yeere of the raigne of our soueraigne Lady the Queene, there was for the reliefe of diuers poore decayed towne, and of great multitudes of her poore subiectes, who otherwise were likely to perishe, or to become vnprofitable and dangerous to the common weale, among other prouided & established, one good and beneficial statute, entituled, An Act for the continuance of making of cappes. By meane of which statute, great numbers of idle, poore, and impotent persons were for a season set on worke, whyle the awe of the sayd statute and feare of due execution thereof continued, to the marueylous great commoditie of this Realme, and helpe of the needie, and redresse of yll occupied persons, as by the experience thereof hath been manifestly proued. And whereas neuerthelesse by litle and litle, the disobedience and wanton disorder of euill disposed and lyght persons, more regardyng priuate fantasie and vanitie, then publique commoditie or respect of duetie, hath encreased by want of execution of the sayde lawe, whereby those good & honest subiectes that haue by meanes of the sayde statute, set to worke a great number of poore people, are like to be dryuen to geue ouer their sayd trade of making of cappes, and to sende abroad agayne into idlenesse and miserie, those multitudes that haue been by them releued, whereby is lykely to growe great enormitie and inconuenience, yf speedye remedye therfore be not in tyme prouided. The Queenes most excellent maiestie therfore tenderly consydering the premysse, straightly chargeth and commaundeth al Iustices of Assises, Iustices of peace, Maiors, Sherriffes, Bayliffes, and other head officers of Cities, Boroughes, and Townes corporate, and the Lordes, Stewardes, Bayliffes, and other officers of Leetes, Lawdayes, and Liberties, and all and singuler Constables, Thyrdboroughes, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and all other her highnesse subiectes, to whom the executing or puttyng in bre of the same statute any way may apparteyne, that euery one of them, accordyng to his office, place, and calling, do theyr bittermost endeouour for the due execution of the sayde statute: and that they the sayde Bayliffes, Constables, Thyrdboroughes, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and all other inferior officers, and euery of them, doo euery Sunday, and festiual day, make diligent biewe and search in al Churches, Chapels, and all other places within the circuites and compasses of theyr offices and auctorities, for al and singuler breakers and offendours of the sayde statute, and without delay cause the names of al suche offendours, and of the parentes, gardians, gouernours, and maisters of euery chylde, seruaunt, and warde so offendyng, together with the day and place of the offence committed, to be then wrytten, and to be lawfully and orderly presented, at suche Assises, Sessions, or Courtes (next after suche offences) as haue auctoritie to enquire or determine the sayd offences: And that al Maiors, Sherriffes, and Bayliffes of Cities, Boroughes, & Townes Corporate, and al lordes of Leetes, Lawdayes, and Liberties, doo immediatly upon the proclamation hereof, call before them al the sayd Constables, Thyrdboroughes, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, inferior Bayliffes, and al other the abovesaid inferior officers, that shalbe vnder their charge of gouernment, and them, and euery of them forthwith in our names do straightly charge and commaund, that they, and euery of them, to the bittermost of theyr powers, do euery Sunday and festiual day, make suche diligent biewe and search, and suche note also of the names of al suche offendours, and such presentment of al such offences as is abovesaid: And that al Iustices of Assises, and Iustices of peace in theyr circuites and Sessions, and all Stewardes in theyr Leetes, upon payne of her Maiesties hygh displeasure, omit not in any wise from time to time, specially to geue in charge, and cause to be enquired of all offences agaynst the sayd statute committed, or to be committed within theyr seueral precinctes or iurisdictions, and also do duely heare and determine the same, punysshing euery of the sayde offendours accordyng to the sayde statute: And that al the sayde lordes and owners of Leetes and Lawdayes, do as muche as in euery of them shal lye, to cause theyr Stewardes throughe to execute theyr office and auctoritie, accordyng to the same statute, and that upon euery suche offence founde, both the sayde owners of leetes, and also the rulers and cheefe gouernours of euery Citie, Borough, Towne, or Hamlet, where any suche offence shalbe tryed and founde, shal do theyr bittermost endeouour by the lawe to recouer, haue, and obteyne of euery such offendour, al the penalties to them, or any of them, by the sayde statute forseynted, or to be forseynted.

April 29. Anno 14. 11. 2  
God saue the Queene.

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Cum privilegio Regie Maestatis.